

ALASKA COMMERCIAL SALMON  
TROLLING REGULATORY GUIDE, WINTER 1996  
(October 11, 1995 through April 14, 1996)



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## FOREWORD

The following is a summary of important commercial salmon trolling regulations for the 1995/1996 winter troll season. This regulatory guide was developed to provide the commercial salmon trolling industry with a quick reference of current regulations.

This guide is for informational use. The regulations in it are condensed from official regulations in the Alaska Administrative Code or from those filed with the Lieutenant Governor.

The regulations in this guide may be changed at any time by emergency regulation or emergency order. Any changes will be available at the following Fish and Game offices:

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## **FISHING SEASON**

The 1995 Southeast and Yakutat commercial winter troll season begins Tuesday, October 11, 1995 and will continue through April 14, 1996, or until a total of 45,000 chinook salmon are harvested. 5 AAC 33.311 (a).

## **MANAGEMENT**

The chinook salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska are managed in accordance with the Alaska Board of Fisheries Troll Management Plan and the Pacific Salmon Treaty (PST). Chinook salmon caught beginning October 11, 1995, count towards the 1996 quota for all of Southeast Alaska. There is currently no quota established for the overall 1996 season; however, the winter troll fishery will be managed so that the harvest of chinook salmon does not exceed 45,000. 5AAC 33.365 (b)(16)(A).

Throughout the 1996 winter fishery, the department will carefully tabulate and monitor catches and conduct sampling for coded wire tags in selected ports.

## **FISHING AREAS**

The winter troll fishery is confined to the area east of the surf line (Figure 1).

### ***Yakutat Area***

The line extends from the southernmost tip of Point Manby to the easternmost tip of Ocean Cape.

### *Southeast Area*

A line from the southernmost tip of Cape Spencer  
to the westernmost tip of Yakobi Rock  
to the southernmost tip of Cape Cross  
to the southernmost tip of Point Theodore  
to the westernmost tip of Cape Edward  
to the westernmost tip of Khaz Point  
to the westernmost tip of Point Slocum  
to the westernmost tip of Klokachef Island  
to the westernmost tip of Cape Georgiana  
to the westernmost tip of Point Amelia  
to Cape Edgecumbe Light  
to the southernmost tip of Point Woodhouse  
to the southernmost tip of Rogers Island  
to the westernmost tip of Aspid Cape  
to the southernmost tip of North Cape  
to 56°22'46" N. latitude, 134°57' W. longitude  
to 56°19'30" N. latitude, 134°54' W. longitude  
to the southernmost tip of Puffin Point  
to the northwesternmost tip of Bobrovoi Point  
to the southernmost tip of Cape Ommaney  
to Nation Point  
to Helm Point  
to Cape Addington  
to the westernmost tip of Cape Chirikof  
to Cape Bartolome Light  
to the southernmost tip of Cape Felix  
to the westernmost tip of Bruin Point  
to the westernmost tip of Sakie Point  
to the westernmost tip of Cape Augustine  
to the westernmost tip of Rockwell Point  
to the westernmost tip of Ritter Point  
to the westernmost tip of Point Bazan  
to the westernmost tip of Security Point  
to Point Cornwallis Light  
to the southernmost tip of Liscome Point  
to the westernmost tip of Wolk Point  
to 54°39'52" N. latitude, 132°43'32" W. longitude  
to Cape Muzon Light

to the southernmost tip of Point Nunez  
to the southernmost tip of Cape Chacon  
to the southernmost tip of West Rock  
to the southernmost tip of Yellow Rocks  
to Tree Point Light  
to Lord Rock Light  
to a point on the International Boundary at 130°49' W. longitude

### **CLOSED AREAS AND TIMES**

Salmon trolling is permitted in all above areas and at all times during the winter season (October 11 through April 14) except as follows:

1. District 1
  - A. Section 1-D is closed. 5 AAC 33.350 (b)(12).
2. District 8
  - A. Stikine River: waters inside a line from Babbler Point to Hour Point, along the shore of Wrangell Island to Point Highfield to the southern end of Liesnoi Island to the southern end of Greys Island to the small island near the eastern entrance of Blind Slough, to the nearest point of Mitkof Island, to the prominent point of Mitkof Island nearest Coney Island, to the northern end of Coney Island, to a point 500 yards north of Jap Creek on the mainland shore are closed. 5 AAC 33.350 (i)(2).
3. District 11
  - A. Section 11-A is closed except those waters south of the latitude of Outer Point and east of a line from Salisbury Point to Point Tantallon. A permit is no longer required. 5 AAC 33.311 (j)(4).
  - B. Section 11-B is open from October 11 through April 14 except those waters north of the latitude of Graves Point Light are open only from October 11 through March 31. 5 AAC 33.311 (j)(2).

4. District 15
  - A. Section 15-B is closed. 5AAC 33.311 (I)
5. District 16
  - A. Closed.

Note: The waters listed in the “Closed Waters” section of the regulation book are open to trolling during the winter troll season.

## **GEAR REQUIREMENTS**

### *Gear Regulations*

1. A trolling vessel may have, or use for taking bait, a fishing rod equipped exclusively for taking bait or a gillnet of a mesh size no more than 2.5 inches and made of no greater than number 20 gillnet thread. 5 AAC 39.270 (b).
2. Line and gurdy limits for power troll vessels are as follows:
  - A. No more than four trolling lines may be operated from any power troll vessel. 5 AAC 39.270 (a)(1).
  - B. No more than six mounted gurdies may be on board any power troll vessel. 5 AAC 39.270 (e).
3. Line and gurdy limits for hand troll vessels are as follows:
  - A. A maximum of four fishing rods or two hand troll gurdies may be operated from any hand troll vessel. 5 AAC 39.270 (a)(3).
  - B. From each hand troll gurdy only one line with multiple leaders may be operated. 5 AAC 39.270 (a)(2)(A).
  - C. From each rod only one line with no more than one leader and one lure or two baited hooks per leader may be attached. 5 AAC 39.270 (a)(2)(B).



- D. No more than two troll gurdies and four fishing rods may be on board any salmon hand troll vessel. 5 AAC 39.270 (e).

### ***Gear Definitions***

1. A troll gurdy is a spool device designed to deploy and retrieve troll lines, weights, and lures, and does not include a reel attached to a fishing rod. 5 AAC 39.270 (h)(1).
2. A hand troll gurdy is a troll gurdy powered by hand or hand crank that is not mounted on, or used in conjunction with, a fishing rod. 5 AAC 39.270 (h)(2).
3. A fishing rod is a tapered, often jointed rod equipped with a hand grip and line guides and upon which is mounted a hand-powered reel used to deploy and retrieve the trolling line. 5 AAC 39.270 (h)(3).
4. A downrigger is a device designed to be used with a fishing rod to deploy a troll line to a selected depth and retrieve the downrigger line and weight. 5 AAC 39.270 (h)(4).
5. A downrigger is a troll gurdy (because a downrigger is defined as a troll gurdy, downriggers can't be used in conjunction with fishing rods from salmon troll vessels). 5 AAC 39.270 (h)(1).

### **LANDING REQUIREMENTS**

1. Chinook salmon retained must measure at least 28 inches from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail, or 23 inches from the midpoint of the clethral arch to the tip of the tail. 5 AAC 30.392 (a) and 5 AAC 33.392 (a).
2. Undersized chinook salmon must be returned to the water without injury. This includes adipose-clipped sublegal size chinook salmon. 5 AAC 30.392 and 5 AAC 33.392 (a).
3. No chinook salmon may be mutilated or otherwise disfigured in any manner which prevents determining the minimum size. 5 AAC 30.392 (a) and 5 AAC 33.392 (a).
4. Fish tickets must be submitted prior to transporting fish out of state. 5 AAC 39.130 (b)

### **REGISTRATION**

In order to participate in the fall portion of the winter troll fishery, trollers must have been registered during the 1995 season. If not, an application for late registration must be completed prior to trolling (see the Late Registration Requirements section). In order to participate in the spring portion of the winter fishery (January 1 through April 14) trollers must register for the 1996 season (see Registration Requirements for the 1996 season).

### ***Late Registration Requirements***

To qualify for an extension for the troll vessel registration deadline, a person shall demonstrate an intent to harvest fish before the deadline. An intent to harvest fish can be demonstrated by:

1. Renewing or applying for, before the deadline, a CFEC permit which is effective in the fishery and area for which extension is being requested. 5 AAC 39.123 (a)(1).
  2. Participation during the previous season in the fishery in the requested area, unless entry into the fishery is limited and the person did not own a permit for that season. 5 AAC 39.123 (a)(2).
  3. Purchasing or showing intent to purchase a vessel, permit or fishing gear for the fishery before the deadline. 5 AAC 39.123 (a)(3).
  4. Showing intent to start, starting, or completing of vessel or gear repair or maintenance for the fishery before the deadline. 5 AAC 39.123 (a)(4).
  5. Any other written documentation, such as loan applications, agreements with fish buyers, license applications, or other writings, which indicate the necessary intent to participate in the fishery before the deadline. 5 AAC 39.123 (a)(5).
- A. Additionally, a person must demonstrate that failure to apply before the deadline was a result of excusable neglect. Excusable neglect may be demonstrated by:
- a. Loss of registration or permit form in the mail, or other documentation which may demonstrate excusable carelessness or inattention on the part of authorized agents or other third parties. 5 AAC 39.123 (b)(1).
  - b. Receipt of incorrect information from a department official, which is substantiated by the appropriate official. 5 AAC 39.123 (b)(2).

- c. Illness or injury of the individual or a member of his family that was serious enough to prevent him from meeting the deadline. 5 AAC 39.123 (b)(3).
- d. Required government or military service. 5 AAC 39.123 (b)(4).
- e. Written documentation that will substantiate other unavoidable circumstances that prevented meeting the deadline. 5 AAC 39.123 (b)(5).

### ***Registration Requirements for the 1996 Season***

1. Any vessel that is used as a salmon troll fishing vessel must be registered before the first opening date of the summer season. 5 AAC 39.120 (g)(4). Late registration requirements are in the following section.
2. The owner or operator of any fishing vessel that is to be used to take salmon with hand or power troll gear shall register that vessel by checking the Salmon Troll Registration Box on the CFEC vessel license application or renewal form. 5 AAC 39.120 (g)(5).
3. Troll vessel registration is valid for the entire calendar year in which a vessel is registered. 5 AAC 39.120 (g)(6).
4. No fishing vessel may be registered simultaneously as both a hand and power troll vessel. 5 AAC 39.120 (g)(2).
5. A troll vessel's registration may be changed to another troll gear during the open season when a written request for the change has been validated by the department. 5 AAC 39.120 (g)(2).
6. A registered vessel must display the appropriate markings indicated below under marking requirements. 5 AAC 39.119.
7. Sport fishing for salmon is prohibited from registered troll vessels, except in derby areas during derbies authorized by the Department of Fish and Game and for charter boats. Sport fishing is allowed for bottomfish and halibut from registered power troll and hand troll vessels; however, no halibut may be on board if there are salmon on board (see special requirements for charter boats below). 5 AAC 49.060 (a)(3).
8. Troll vessels that will be used as charter boats must complete additional registration requirements. This can be accomplished by obtaining a charter boat registration application from Fish and Game offices. 5 AAC 49.060 (b) and 5 AAC 75.995 (8).

## **VESSEL MARKING REQUIREMENTS**

Each licensed commercial fishing vessel, including hand or power troll vessels, must display its permanent vessel license plate number as follows:

1. In permanent symbols at least 12 inches high and with lines at least 1 inch wide that contrast with the background. 5 AAC 39.119 (a)(1).
2. On both sides of the hull or cabin, or mast. 5 AAC 39.119 (a)(2).
3. In a manner such as to be plainly visible and unobscured. 5 AAC 39.119 (a)(3).
4. At all times when registered to fish. 5 AAC 39.119 (a)(4).

In addition to the requirement above for displaying permanent vessel license plate numbers, each registered salmon hand troll vessel must display the letters "HT" in permanent block letters. Each letter must be painted on both sides of the vessel hull or cabin in a color contrasting with the background, be at least 8 inches high and at least 1/2 inch wide, and be plainly visible and unobscured at all times. The letters must be displayed at all times until the end of the calendar year in which the vessel is registered. 5 AAC 39.119 (b).

## **SPORTFISHING AND CHARTERING FROM A TROLL VESSEL**

Sport fishing for salmon is prohibited from registered troll vessels. Sport fishing is allowed for groundfish and halibut from registered power troll and hand troll vessels, except that no halibut may be on board if there are any salmon on board. Sport fishing seasons are as follows: halibut open February 1 - December 31; lingcod open May 1 - November 30; rockfish open year-round.

Sport fishing from an unregistered troll vessel in waters closed to commercial trolling is allowed as long as no commercially caught salmon are onboard. Any salmon caught with sport gear must have the dorsal fin removed immediately upon being landed.

A registered troll vessel may also be registered as a charter vessel [5 AAC 75.075]. Charter boat registration applications are available at Fish and Game offices. A vessel registered both as a commercial troller and as a charter vessel may not be used to troll commercially and for charter in the same day.

**MISCELLANEOUS TROLL FISHERY REGULATIONS  
RELATING TO FISHING FOR GROUNDFISH**

***Incidental Catch of Groundfish***

The incidental catch of groundfish must be landed using a salmon troll permit. The holder of a valid interim use or limited entry permit for handtroll or powertroll gear may take groundfish (including all species of rockfish) in any amount while trolling for salmon, with the following restrictions:

***Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)***

Trollers are allowed to retain unlimited amounts of DSR when the season for DSR is open and when caught in open areas. A 10% bycatch (by weight) is permitted when the DSR season is closed as well as in the following permanently closed areas:

**Sitka Area**

In all waters of Sitka Sound south of 57°16 N. latitude and north and east of a line from Sitka Point on Kruzof Island to the northernmost tip of Little Biorka Island to Frosty Reef [5 AAC 28.171 (a)(2)];

**Ketchikan Area**

In all waters of Behm Canal, Clarence Strait, Tongass Narrows, Nichols Passage, George Inlet, Thorne Arm, Revillagigedo Channel, and all contiguous waters enclosed by the latitude of Bushy Point Light, a line from Point Alava to the southernmost tip of Ham Island, a line from Cedar Point to Dall Head, and a line from Dall Head to a point in midstream Clarence Strait at the latitude of Dall Head to Caamaano Point [5 AAC 28.171 (a)(3)];

**Craig and Klawock**

In all waters enclosed by a line from the southern point of St. Phillip Island to the northern tip of San Fernando Island, to Point Cangrejo and all waters of Ulloa Channel north of the latitude of Waterfall Cannery. 5 AAC 28.171 (a)(4).

### ***Other Rockfish Species***

Trollers are allowed to retain unlimited amounts of other rockfish species when the directed fishery is open. A 20% bycatch is allowed when the directed fishery is closed, unless placed on prohibited species status by the federal government.

### ***Lingcod***

Trollers can retain unlimited amounts of lingcod through November 30 or until the troll quota for lingcod has been met.

### ***Halibut***

Trollers holding I.F.Q.'s must retain any halibut taken incidentally while trolling for salmon until the halibut season closes November 15, 1995. Halibut season will reopen on March 15, 1996.

### ***Gear***

A jigging machine is a mechanical device with line and hooks used to jig for halibut and groundfish, but does not include hand gurdies or rods with reels. 5AAC 39.105 (d)(25).

Dinglebar troll gear consists of a single line that is retrieved and set with a (power) troll gurdy or hand troll gurdy, with a terminally attached weight, from which one or more leaders with one or more lures or baited hooks are pulled through the water while a vessel is underway. Dinglebar troll gear is essentially the same as power troll or hand troll gear, the difference lies in the species targeted and the permit required. Dinglebar troll gear can be used in the directed fisheries for groundfish or halibut. These species may be taken only incidentally while fishing for salmon with power or hand troll gear.

It is unlawful for any person to possess salmon aboard a vessel that has taken or is equipped to take groundfish or halibut with a mechanical jigging machine or dinglebar troll gear. It is unlawful to sell or purchase salmon from such a vessel. 5AAC 28.050 (c). These restrictions do not apply to a person operating power troll gear in areas open to trolling during an open salmon season. 5AAC 28.050 (d).

Since a mechanical jigging machine and power troll gear are virtually the same, this exception allows a person operating power troll gear to sell groundfish taken incidentally while legally fishing power troll gear.

Groundfish taken as bycatch by hand troll or power troll gear operated in a manner consistent with state laws and regulations are legally taken and possessed. 5AAC 28.050 (a)(2).

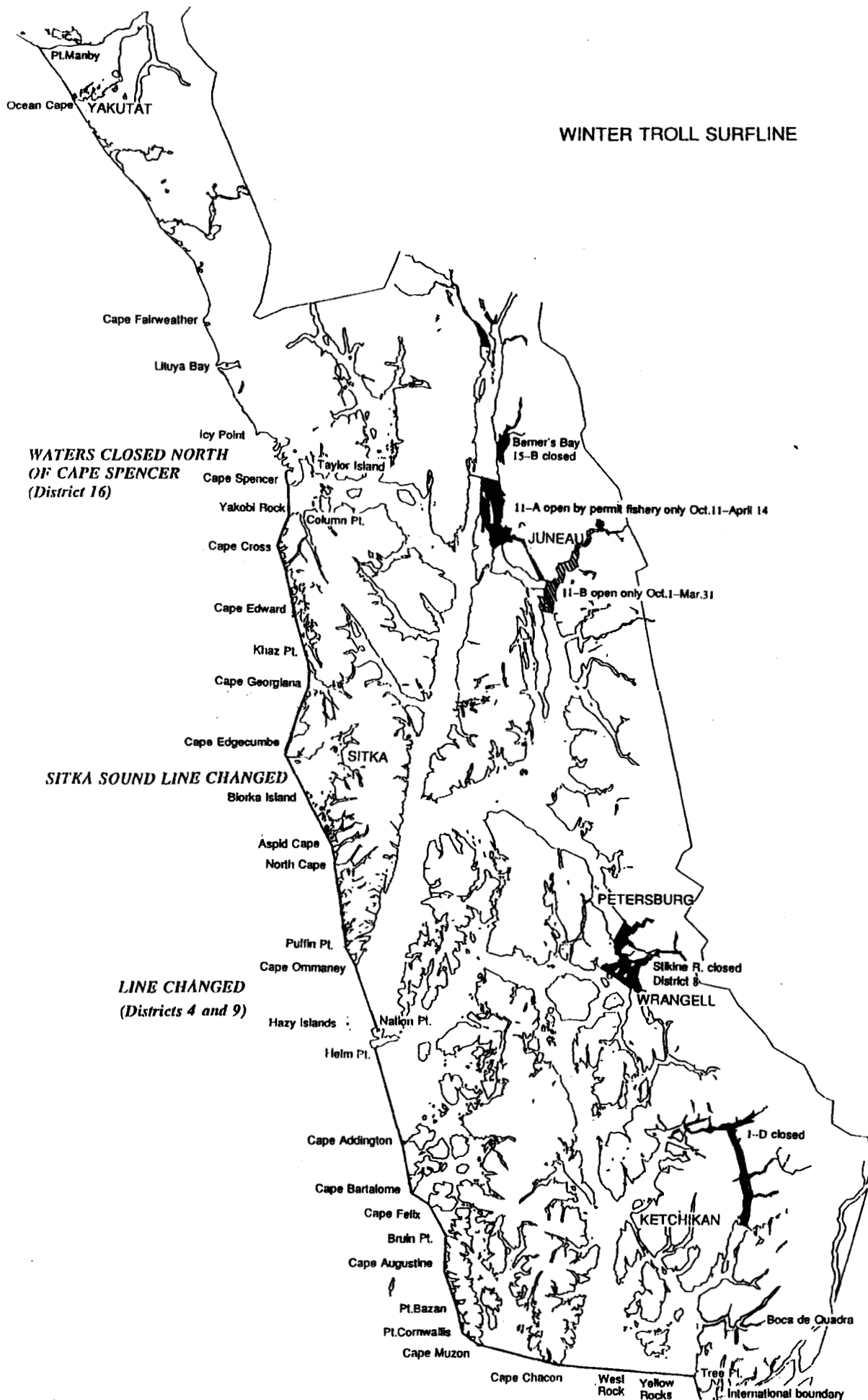
Trollers are allowed to longline for groundfish and troll for salmon on the same trip, as long as salmon are not onboard the vessel in an area which is closed to trolling.

### ***Participation***

A person aboard a power or hand troll vessel may not fish for salmon during an open period if that person fished for groundfish using hand troll, mechanical jig or dinglebar gear, within 72 hours (three days) prior to an open salmon period. A person fishing power or hand troll gear for salmon must also wait at least 24 hours before participating in a directed fishery for groundfish. Trollers are prohibited from harvesting halibut, lingcod or other groundfish species commercially on October 1 as well as October 8-10 if they intend to participate in the winter troll fishery. 5 AAC 39.270(i).

Figure 1. Southeast Alaska winter troll fishery areas. For description of Yakutat open area see page 2.





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